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Recommendation for funding for a short-duration country programme**

Malaysia

Summary

The present document contains a recommendation for funding from regular resources and other resources for a final three-year transitional country programme of cooperation for Malaysia to support activities that will lead to a new UNICEF relationship in the context of the Global Movement for Children. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve the amount of $1,500,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $450,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2002 to 2004.

* E/ICEF/2001/12.

** The figures provided in the present document are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 2000. They will be contained in the summary of recommendations for regular resources and other resources programmes for 2001 (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.73).

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Basic data[a] *(1999 unless otherwise stated)*	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	8.9
U5MR (per 1,000 live births) (2000)	9
IMR (per 1,000 live births) (2000)	8
Underweight (% moderate and severe)	16
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) (1996)	41
Literacy (% male/female) (2000)	94/94
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female) (2000)	91/84
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%) (1996)	99
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	..
Routine EPI vaccines financed by Government (%)	100
GNP per capita (US$)	3 390
One-year-olds fully immunized against:	
Tuberculosis	99 per cent
Diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus	93 per cent
Measles	88 per cent
Poliomyelitis	93 per cent
Pregnant women immunized against tetanus	81 per cent

[a] Excerpted from the publication "Progress since the World Summit for Children: A statistical review", prepared as a supplement to the Secretary-General's report "We the children: End-decade review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children" (A/S-27/3), and therefore may differ from data contained in the text of this document.

The situation of children and women

1. In its end-decade review, Malaysia documented the achievement of five of the six major World Summit for Children goals and the near achievement of its target for reducing moderate malnutrition in the course of implementing its National Plan of Action: 1991-2000 (NPA 2000). Malaysia has made such exemplary progress because it has matched political will to the allocation of required resources, a commitment that did not falter even during the 1997-1998 economic slowdown.

2. Malaysia's HIV/AIDS epidemic still affects predominantly males, although between 1990 and 2000 the percentage of women grew from 1.2 to 8.1 per cent of the HIV-positive population, infected primarily via sexual intercourse. The cumulative total of reported HIV/AIDS cases between 1986-2000 is 38,340, or 0.17 per cent of the total population. Of the 197,832 pregnant women screened at sentinel antenatal clinics in 2000, 61, or 0.03 per cent, were HIV-positive, the same percentage for the previous two years; and of these, 4.4 per cent were under 20 years of age. Malaysia has had a national prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme in place since 1998 and is currently considering providing free anti-retroviral treatment to the mother as well as to the child after birth. It is also acknowledged that current peer education life skills activities should be maintained and expanded to address out-of-school youth who are deemed to be at higher risk than their school-going counterparts.

3. Malaysia has sought to put in place an enabling environment for fulfilling the rights of children and women. The House of Representatives passed the Child Act, which harmonizes all child-related legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in October 2000. In early 2001, the Women's Affairs Department was elevated to the status of a full ministry, mandated to enhance the rights and role of women in Malaysian society. Passage of the Guardianship of Infants Act, which gives women legal custody of their children, granting women the right to file separate income tax returns, and further impetus to create a Family Court system in 2000, all represent progress towards that end.

4. It is expected that Malaysia's next NPA for Children will highlight issues of protection and participation, giving new weight to children with disabilities and the family environment, increasingly at risk from the rapid socio-economic change and the demands on working parents.

5. Just as NPA 2000 was factored into successive five-year national development plans, so too will provisions for implementation of its sequel, beginning with the Eighth Malaysia Plan (2001-2005). In the budget speech of October 2000, the Government repeated its resolve to "continue the agenda of a caring society", allocating almost 38 per cent of State spending in 2001/02 to education, training, health, welfare, community development, youth and sports. Given its record over the last decade, Malaysia could be expected to realize the objectives of its subsequent NPA.

6. The Government of Malaysia recognizes, however, that the post-World Summit for Children agenda will not be as readily addressed by State intervention as that of NPA 2000, which was more amenable to the provision of required physical and human infrastructure. It acknowledges that an enabling and supportive environment must be created by appropriate public policies and programmes. However, parents, children themselves, communities, the private sector and the full range of civil society groups active in child-related causes must join the Government in addressing the increasingly complex social issues involved in fulfilling children's rights to protection and participation. The Government has expressed its readiness to enter into partnerships with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), while signalling, at the same time, justified concern about their technical and administrative standards.

7. In light of an under-five mortality rate of 9 per 1,000 live births and a gross national product per capita of $3,400, this will be the final, three-year transitional country programme. It will help to develop those elements essential to Malaysia's full national expression of the Global Movement for Children within the framework of its next NPA. One of those elements will be the new UNICEF relationship with Malaysia, which must continue to inform and add value to this effort. Its precise nature and characteristics will be the subject of extensive discussions with the Government and stakeholders throughout Malaysian society.

Programme cooperation, 1997-2001

8. The financial contribution of UNICEF to the near universal achievement of Malaysia's goals related to the World Summit for Children has been modest, but often strategic. It has supported studies and pilot initiatives that have yielded national policies and programmes for the reduction of perinatal mortality, and the provision of early childhood care and remedial education for indigenous students. It has helped to expand existing programmes in child protection for at-risk

communities and rural pre-school education, and foster greater social involvement in the reduction of maternal mortality and death from acute respiratory infections. It has assisted the Government in making the Convention on the Rights of the Child more accessible to all Malaysians and in applying it to inform Malaysia's consequent NPA. It has also been used to give children and adolescents new opportunities for self-expression through the arts and media, and for determining their own priorities, including the participation of both able-bodied and disabled young people in Malaysia's end-decade review and the formulation of its post-World Summit plan of action.

Lessons learned from past cooperation

9. One of the most significant lessons learned from the current programme of cooperation is that greater efforts must be exerted to strengthen the technical and managerial competencies of local child-related NGOs to enable them to execute their mandates more professionally and to become more effective partners with the Government and the private sector. In many cases, it is local NGOs, both secular and religious, which have been in the forefront of issues such as the protection and re-socialization of physically and sexually abused children and juvenile offenders; the care, education and rehabilitation of disabled children; early childhood development; young people's participation in community life; and implanting the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the public consciousness — all elements of Malaysia's post-World Summit agenda. However, most lack a secure funding base and many of the basic skills in strategic planning, programme/project design, monitoring, evaluation and management. Continued efforts will be needed to ensure that NGOs are able to support and complement Government efforts to care for and meet the needs of children.

10. Although a culture of social responsibility, derived from Malaysia's rich Islamic, Buddhist, Confucian and Hindu traditions, exists among locally-owned enterprises, it tends to manifest itself largely as charitable donations. While the commercial sector is already involved in social issues to a noteworthy extent, it could make an even more significant contribution to Malaysia's national expression of the Global Movement for Children by lending its unique skills and capacities to partnerships with government and civil society groups. To realize this, there is a need to build upon and expand current practices through the development of business models of corporate social responsibility appropriate to the local context.

11. NPA 2000 was known, by and large, only to those directly involved in its design and implementation. Malaysia's next NPA should be given a much higher public profile than its predecessor, if it is to serve as the rallying point and functional framework for Malaysia's Global Movement for Children.

12. There exist a variety of forums in Malaysia, some of which have been supported by UNICEF in previous country programmes, where young people are able to voice their opinions. Linkages between these platforms to decision-making bodies within national, state and local governments need to be strengthened considerably in order for adolescents to participate more meaningfully in the formulation of policies and programmes that intimately affect their lives.

13. The countries of the East Asia and Pacific region will be able to benefit more fully from Malaysia's models and experience, as well as from its capacity for technical cooperation, if this potential is promoted more systematically. A structured programme could be developed to determine individual country needs, match them

with available resources, and schedule technical missions and study visits to optimize their effectiveness.

Recommended programme cooperation, 2002-2004

	Estimated annual expenditure (In thousands of United States dollars)			
Regular resources	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*Total*
Experience transfer	75.0	65.0	50.0	190.0
National Plan of Action for Children	242.7	150.0	100.0	492.7
Malaysia's Global Movement for Children	160.5	160.5	127.0	448.0
Cross-sectoral costs	121.8	124.5	123.0	369.3
Subtotal	**600.0**	**500.0**	**400.0**	**1 500.0**
Other resources[a]				
National Plan of Action for Children	150.0	150.0	150.0	450.0
Total	**750.0**	**650.0**	**550.0**	**1 950.0**

[a] If private sector resource mobilization is authorized.

Country programme preparation process

14. It was the original intention to begin a new, conventional, three-year country programme of cooperation for Malaysia in 2001. To that end, a strategy paper was prepared, in collaboration with the Government, and presented at the mid-term review meeting that took place on 1 April 1999. The draft document was subsequently revised and discussed extensively at a workshop held on 29 June 1999 attended by government officials, NGOs, private sector representatives and older children.

15. Following the extension by one year of the 1997-2000 country programme and the decision that the 2002-2004 programme would be the final one, the focus and thrust were revised to make provisions for a new relationship between Malaysia and UNICEF beyond 2004. At the annual review meeting that took place on 23 February 2001, the Government approved the initial modifications, and further refinements were agreed to by the Economic Planning Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister on 24 April 2001.

Country programme goals and objectives

16. The goal of the 2002-2004 country programme of cooperation is to conclude the current chapter of the UNICEF relationship and develop the basis for a new understanding that will contribute to Malaysia's expression of the Global Movement for Children through its next NPA.

17. The country programme objectives are to: (a) establish a structured framework for other countries of the region and beyond to profit from Malaysia's experience and technical cooperation in the areas of maternal health, and child survival, development and protection, and for Malaysia to benefit from international best practices; (b) develop prototypes of multisectoral partnerships to address selected

priorities in child protection and participation in the new NPA; and (c) enhance the participation of local NGOs, individuals, corporations and UNICEF in Malaysia's national expression of the Global Movement for Children.

Relation to national and international priorities

18. The 2002-2004 country programme of cooperation responds to the priorities defined in Malaysia's National Report on the Follow-up to the World Summit for Children. It also reflects the underlying principles of the Global Movement for Children and the priorities of both "A world fit for children" and the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan. Its transitional nature and provisions for a follow-up relationship between UNICEF and Malaysia are consistent with Executive Board decision 1997/18 (E/ICEF/1997/12/Rev.1) on the modified system for allocation of general resources for programmes.

Programme strategy

19. The proposed country programme will close the current chapter of the UNICEF relationship with the Government of Malaysia and open a new one in the context of the Global Movement for Children. It will employ three strategies — advocacy, capacity-strengthening and social mobilization — to implement three programmes: experience transfer; the NPA for Children; and Malaysia's Global Movement for Children.

20. The 2002-2004 country programme has been structured to assist in marshalling those capacities required to drive and sustain a broad societal movement for children's rights in Malaysia under the banner of the country's next NPA. Its three elements have been designed to contribute synergistically to this intended outcome.

21. The experience transfer programme is intended not only to benefit other countries, which can learn from Malaysia's achievements, but also to share with Malaysia the best practices of other countries which have successfully managed the challenges to children posed by a rapidly changing socio-economic environment. The NPA for Children programme will give Malaysia's new NPA a heightened public profile, while developing selected initiatives related to child protection and participation that can serve as models of the expanded "smart partnerships" needed to fully implement its provisions. Malaysia's Global Movement for Children programme will assist in preparing the foundation for its national expression, which includes: a local commercial sector committed to children's well-being within the framework of corporate social responsibility; a community of technically and administratively strengthened child-related NGOs that will be strong partners for the Government and business; and a new relationship with UNICEF that will continue to inform and add value to this dynamic beyond 2004.

22. **Experience transfer**. This programme recognizes Malaysia's potential to benefit other countries in the East Asia and Pacific region and beyond from its experience and technical capacity, as well as the need to have its new agenda for children continuously informed by global knowledge. UNICEF will support the documentation of Malaysia's accomplishments in maternal and child health, basic education and child protection in a user-friendly format, and promote their distribution. The programme will also help to establish an electronic inventory of national technical capacity in these areas and help to match its supply to the

demands of other countries. This will be achieved within the framework of Malaysia's programme of international cooperation, coordinated by the Economic Planning Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister. Finally, UNICEF will help to arrange and support study visits to and from Malaysia, in collaboration with other country offices, to observe programmes in child survival, development, protection and participation that are recognized best practices.

23. **NPA for Children**. This programme will contribute to making Malaysia's next NPA the operational framework for its expression of the Global Movement for Children. Working closely with the Government, NGOs, local mass media and private sector advertising firms, UNICEF will help to develop a national campaign in the context of "Say Yes for Children" to give the new NPA a prominent profile and widespread recognition. To this end, popular versions in Bhasa Malaysia, Mandarin and Tamil will be produced for public consumption.

24. Support will be provided for the production of training manuals for the trainers of chairpersons and members of child protection teams, the committees of community rehabilitation centres and the staff of homes for abused children. These guidebooks, and those to be developed for the operation and management of children's activity and community rehabilitation centres, will also contribute to the transfer of the Malaysian experience in child protection to other countries in the region.

25. Over the past five years, UNICEF has provided significant funding to the Healthy Lifestyles without AIDS for Youth (ProStar) programme, a national peer educator programme intended to equip schoolchildren with the knowledge to avoid harmful practices. However, there is growing recognition that out-of-school youth are at higher risk of exposure to HIV and other infections owing to comparatively greater levels of sexual activity and intravenous drug use. In collaboration with the AIDS Unit of the Ministry of Health, the Malaysian AIDS Council, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNICEF will support the development of a complementary ProStar initiative targeting out-of-school youth.

26. Malaysia's post-World Summit for Children agenda signals the need to increase opportunities for children with disabilities to participate more fully in mainstream life. Together with the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development, the Yellow House Artists Alliance, Proctor & Gamble and the Community Support Network, UNICEF will develop a project for children with disabilities to join their able-bodied peers in finding new outlets for artistic self-expression through painting, puppetry, music and theatre at the Yellow House Children's Creativity Centre, the first facility of its kind in Malaysia.

27. There is growing acknowledgement that all young people, without exception, need to participate in the decision-making that intimately affects their lives. It is also increasingly recognized that their unique, first-hand perspective can enrich policies and programmes in which they are the principal clients, actors and beneficiaries. The 2002-2004 country programme will provide an opportunity for interested senior government representatives to study such vehicles for young people's participation in public policy development in other jurisdictions with a view to establishing a similar forum in the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development.

28. Each of the above projects represents a priority concern in Malaysia's follow-up to the World Summit for Children, and each lends itself to partnerships between

the Government and civil society groups, providing models for other NPA initiatives within the framework of the Global Movement for Children.

29. **Malaysia's Global Movement for Children**. This programme will put in place three elements essential to creating the dynamic needed to drive and sustain Malaysia's national expression of the Global Movement for Children.

30. The first of these is a local commercial sector in which the practice of corporate social responsibility becomes an accepted business model. It will be based on a two-step process. Selected locally-owned enterprises that meet the criteria for UNICEF partnership will undergo a social accountability audit for certification of "family-friendliness". A subset of this group will be assisted in developing corporate social responsibility policies and programmes in support of Malaysia's Global Movement for Children. The Malaysia Institute of Management will develop business models derived from this experience.

31. Training courses to strengthen the capacities of local child-related NGOs in strategic planning, programme/project design, monitoring, evaluation, financial management, communications and fund-raising will be provided, in collaboration with a government-approved entity capable of conferring an International Standardization Organization rating on qualifying NGOs to certify them as viable partners.

32. The third element essential to Malaysia's Global Movement for Children is an ongoing relationship with UNICEF that will continue to advocate for the fulfilment of children's rights; communicate new knowledge and best practices; facilitate the transfer of Malaysian expertise and experience; broker new partnerships; and endorse new initiatives. Government regulations presently do not allow active fund-raising by UNICEF. This precludes the establishment of a National Committee or a self-financing office; however, these may not be the most appropriate structures for the present. A new transitional model will be developed that could evolve over time into either these conventional or more innovative modalities.

33. Although the details of this transitional relationship remain to be determined, it will likely draw on an association with an appropriate, local government-supported institution, supplemented by technical inputs provided on a planned basis. A group of individual volunteers has been formed and holds the potential to become a registered entity with the capacity to fund-raise for local projects and advocate for children's rights under the auspices of UNICEF, provided the appropriate criteria are satisfied.

34. **Cross-sectoral costs** will ensure the availability of administrative, financial, supply and logistics support for implementation of the programme.

Monitoring and evaluation

35. UNICEF will monitor and evaluate implementation of the country programme through the monitoring and evaluation units of the executing ministries and the bodies established to oversee achievement of Malaysia's sequel NPA.

36. UNICEF will involve the recently constituted Malaysia Evaluation Society in deriving and documenting lessons learned from the Government/UNICEF experience in those areas relevant to other countries. UNICEF will also contribute expertise in monitoring and evaluation from its regional and country offices to a

training programme designed to support local NGOs in these disciplines. This will be undertaken in conjunction with a local government-approved institution.

Collaboration with partners

37. The primary partner of UNICEF remains the Government of Malaysia through its main interlocutor, the Economic Planning Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister, and the line ministries involved in the country programme. Of these, UNICEF collaborates most extensively with the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development, the "children's ministry".

38. In the spirit of the Global Movement for Children, UNICEF Malaysia has developed working relationships with a broad range of civil society groups and the local business community. It has also begun to exploit more strategically its unique position as the interface between the Government and civil society to broker expanded "smart partnerships" that, it is hoped, will generate new synergies to drive Malaysia's national expression of the Global Movement for Children.

39. There are few remaining bilateral donors to Malaysia given the country's prosperity, and none supporting areas related to the country programme. UNICEF, however, has worked closely with resident United Nations agencies: the World Health Organization (WHO) in child health (Integrated Management of Childhood Illness); UNFPA in safe motherhood; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in basic education. The new country programme will see further collaboration with UNFPA and WHO (healthy lifestyles for out-of-school youth), and a new joint undertaking with the United Nations Development Programme to promote private philanthropy.

40. The new country programme also calls for new kinds of partnerships between UNICEF Malaysia and other UNICEF offices in the East Asia and Pacific region. UNICEF possesses corporate goods, such as the programme planning process and management excellence which, with modifications, could be applied to enhance the technical and administrative competencies of civil society groups in Malaysia. "Over the horizon" technical capacities absent in UNICEF Malaysia, but resident in regional and country offices, will be mobilized on a scheduled basis to provide training in these areas over the next three years, an arrangement that could continue in the context of the future relationship of UNICEF beyond 2004.

Programme management

41. The country programme is planned and managed in collaboration with the Economic Planning Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister and involved line ministries which implement the activities. A Special Representative heads the UNICEF country office in Malaysia, situated in United Nations common premises that are supplied on a rent-free basis by the Government.

42. Implementation of the proposed country programme and the development of an appropriate continued UNICEF relationship will be informed and monitored by the UNICEF Global Working Group on Countries in Transition. The country office will also work closely with the UNICEF Regional Office and New York headquarters to develop criteria for the formalization of the voluntary support group and monitor its performance.

TABLE

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

COUNTRY : MALAYSIA
PROGRAME : 2002-2004

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET			POSTS a/										STAFF COSTS b/		
	RR	OR	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
REGULAR RESOURCES :																
EXPERIENCE TRANSFER	190,000		190,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NPA FOR CHILDREN	492,700		492,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MALAYSIA'S GMC	448,000		448,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CROSS-SECTORAL COSTS	369,300		369,300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	104,563	104,563
TOTAL RR	1,500,000		1,500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	104,563	104,563
OTHER RESOURCES :																
NPA FOR CHILDREN		450,000	450,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OR		450,000	450,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL RR & OR	1,500,000	450,000	1,950,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	104,563	104,563
SUPPORT BUDGET	Operating costs	24,000														
	Staffing			0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	366,862	55,932	422,794
GRAND TOTAL (RR + OR + SB)				0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	366,862	160,495	527,357
Number of posts and staff costs:																
Current programme cycle										1		3	4			
At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)										1	0	3	4	366,862	160,495	527,357

RR = regular resources.
OR = other resources.
IP = international Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
SB = support budget.

a/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.
b/ Excludes temporary assistance and overtime.